Construction of Jokhapora-Banspori Line in Orissa

296. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the Jokhapora-Banspori line in Orissa has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in the construction of the above line;

(c) what progress has been made in the construction work; and

(d) the details of the amounts allocated for the construction of the line in 1988-89?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The new rail line from Jakhapura to Daitari has been completed and opened for goods traffic. The work on Daitari-Banspani was not taken up due to non-materialisation of traffic earlier anticipated, as a result, no amount has been allocated for this line in 1988-89. The construction of this line is now being examined by the concerned Ministries as a part of the project for the export of Iron ore to Korea *via* Paradeep Port.

Maintenance/repairing of Lord Jagannath Temple at Puri, Orissa

297. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the maintenance and repairing work done in the Lord Jagannath Temple at Puri in Orissa is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the steps taken towards conservation, maintenance and repairing work of the famous ancient temple;

(c) whether any guidelines/directions have been sent to the Archaeological circle in Orissa to take necessary steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The steps taken are removal of the plaster from the exterior surface of the monument, exposing the details, grouting the cracks, replacement of corroded iron dowels of the masonry and consolidating the exposed surface and its chemical treatment.

(c) and (d) The work is being carried out in accordance with the recommendations of an Expert Committee of archaelogoists, engineers and scientists.

Privatisation of National Highways

298. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise the National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the National Highways which are likely to be handed over to private organisations during the year 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The Government of India invited propsals from the private sector for taking up selectively certain toll based schemes on National Highways. Only a few concrete proposals were received from